

often that has been the case over the years. You hear something from a constituent or read in the paper or see on the internet, and it is like, this can't be true.

And the one that stands out to me this week is this intention by the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services to pay up to \$450,000 per person of families who illegally crossed our border and were detained separately.

This is an absurd policy decision. It gives greater incentives for people to come to the United States and make that dangerous trek to our border. How can it be fair to our law-abiding American citizens?

This is a situation that makes no sense to me. And it is something that the Biden administration ought to immediately reject as out of bounds for commonsense and good judgment and, certainly, something that is damaging to the ability for us to have a lawful, sovereign border, and something that is very damaging to the citizens of this country but also to those who make the humanitarian challenge of traveling through Central America and Mexico to our sponsor border.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

VOTE ON DAVIDSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Davidson nomination.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Davidson nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 456 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Baldwin	Daines	King
Barrasso	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Bennet	Durbin	Lankford
Blumenthal	Ernst	Leahy
Blunt	Feinstein	Lee
Booker	Fischer	Lujan
Boozman	Gillibrand	Lummis
Brown	Graham	Manchin
Burr	Grassley	Markey
Cantwell	Hagerty	McConnell
Capito	Hassan	Menendez
Cardin	Heinrich	Merkley
Carper	Hickenlooper	Moran
Casey	Hirono	Murkowski
Cassidy	Hoeven	Murphy
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Murray
Coons	Inhofe	Ossoff
Cornyn	Johnson	Padilla
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Paul
Cramer	Kelly	Peters
Crapo	Kennedy	Portman

Reed	Shaheen	Warner
Risch	Sinema	Warnock
Romney	Smith	Warren
Rosen	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Sanders	Sullivan	Wicker
Sasse	Tester	Wyden
Schatz	Thune	Young
Schumer	Toomey	
Scott (SC)	Van Hollen	

NAYS—10

Blackburn	Hawley	Shelby
Braun	Marshall	Tuberville
Cotton	Rubio	
Cruz	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Harris nomination.

The Senator from North Carolina.

REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE—S. 1364

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 50, S. 1364, the Lumbee Tribe of the North Carolina Recognition Act, be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to seek unanimous consent for eight to nine nominees to critical State Department posts.

Each of them moved through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with bipartisan support, and the only reason the Senate has not confirmed them is due to the political obstinacy of a couple of my Republican colleagues. And the evidence of that is that when we have a vote, as we had earlier today for the Assistant Administrator of AID, it passed 59 to 40—59 to 40.

We have heard many complaints about the management of the State Department and the conduct of U.S. foreign policy in recent months. And while the State Department is not a perfect institution—for that fact, no institution is—its leadership was decimated by the prior administration.

The assistant secretaries and ambassadors who should be participating in the rebuilding of the institution and the development and implementation of U.S. foreign policy are instead languishing on the Senate floor—dozens, dozens.

Nominees who should be the face of the United States at international organizations—like the United Nations, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe—are in-

stead waiting for the Senate to act. The government of the People's Republic of China is watching. Even though the majority of this body has recognized that the Government of China represents the greatest geopolitical challenge to the United States, we are letting China eat our lunch on the world stage.

Our Republican colleagues have spoken at length in opposition to this administration's handling of the situation in Afghanistan, but they refuse to allow the Senate to vote on nominees who are critical to dealing with the refugee situation resulting from the U.S. withdrawal and the much-needed stabilization efforts.

By the way, a withdrawal that was already precooked by the Trump administration when it made a surrender deal with the Taliban that said we will leave on a date certain, we will release thousands of Taliban prisoners—which they did, to the Taliban, who became fighting soldiers—we ultimately will not only leave at a date certain, but we have done nothing to get any of the promises that the Taliban made enforced, and we reduce our troop level dramatically. That is what President Biden inherited.

Now, I have heard a lot about the handling of the situation in Afghanistan, but my colleagues refuse to allow the Senate to vote on nominees who are critical to dealing with the refugee situation resulting from that withdrawal and the much-needed stabilization efforts.

Nominees being held by the Republicans include the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration; and the Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations. That cannot stand.

And for all the talk of needing to work with our allies and partners, how does holding our nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Israel or the U.S. Ambassador to Canada actually advance U.S. interests?

It does not. It is seriously detrimental to our national security.

Before I ask unanimous consent, I understand Senator SCHUMER would like to speak prior to these UC requests.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, thank you. I have some brief remarks, and I want to thank my friend, the Senator from New Jersey, who will move in a few moments to have this Chamber approve a number of critical nominees for our national security and is going to be, shamefully, blocked.

He has been a great fighter not only for these men and women, but on foreign policy in general, one of the great leaders. And his passion for this issue comes from a desire to have us have the greatest strength abroad diplomatically and geopolitically as well. So I cannot thank him enough.

Mr. President, of all the mandates of the government, the most important is